

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4375

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 31 West Saratoga Street

and/or common Parking

2. Location

street & number 31 W. Saratoga Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mayor and City Council

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse JFC1994 liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 209 folio

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4375

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1930 Art Deco streamlined parking garage fills the block between Saratoga Street (to the north), North Sharp Street (to the east), West Clay Street (to the south) and North Liberty Street (to the west). It is built into the slope of Liberty Street and is six stories high on Clay Street and four stories on Saratoga Street. The low brick walls are accented with white-painted concrete lintels, soffits, and posts. The horizontal streamlining details include incised, bullnosed balconies, ribbed columns, and rounded corners at the street corners.

The primary entrance is on Liberty Street. The facade is divided into eight bays. The entrance/exit is in the eighth (south) bay of the first story. The opening is flanked by a large brick pier to the south and a rounded wall to the north. The seventh bay contains three ventilator windows. The remaining bays run into the slope of the street and form a brick foundation wall.

The second through sixth stories have low brick walls with projecting header brick sills. The low walls have double tube handrails. The area above the low walls are left open, leaving each parking tier exposed to the elements. The third, fourth and fifth stories have slightly projecting balconies constructed as low brick walls, each one cantilevered above the one below. The third-story balcony is four bays long, the fourth-story balcony is seven bays long and the fifth-story balcony is the full eight bays long. The balconies have bullnosed corners, emphasizing the streamlined design of the building. Concrete posts cast in a four-ribbed pattern divide the bays of the brick walls and brick balconies. The posts are inset behind the brick walls. The posts support white concrete lintels that form soffits under the balconies that project from above.

The Clay Street facade is six stories high and three bays wide. The corner of the Liberty and Clay streets walls are rounded. The first bay contains a low brick wall to the west that is flanked by round brick piers. The low wall has a concrete sill and metal hand rail. The second bay contains an entrance/exit. The opening is defined by a brick pier to the west and a rounded wall to the east. The third bay is a solid brick wall that rises up the full height of the six stories. It contains the stairs and elevator bank. This third bay has a vertical strip of narrow 4-light industrial windows with fluted aluminum spandrels. The stair/elevator bank rises to form a shed on the otherwise flat sixth story. The second through sixth stories have low brick walls and ribbed posts.

The back (east) wall faces a narrow alley. It is divided into

B-4375
31 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD
Section 7 Description
7.1

eight bays. The eight bays are grouped into three sections. The first three bays (to the south) rise six stories. This section has ventilator openings in the first story, no openings on the second story, and projecting balcony low brick walls on the upper stories. The railings, posts, sills, handrails, and lintels are identical to those on Liberty Street. The second section is also three bays wide. The fourth bay is six stories, and the fifth and sixth bays are five stories. The brick walls are solid up to the top. Three header-framed ventilators are cut into the walls at each story. The third section is five stories high. The first story has a low brick wall in the seventh bay and a solid brick wall in the eighth. The second story has a low brick wall. The third, fourth, and fifth stories have the projecting balcony, ribbed posts, white sills and tube handrails as the Liberty Street facade. The wall forms a bullnose corner before reaching Saratoga Street, then there is a second 90 degree angle corner.

The Saratoga Street facade is four stories high and three bays wide. The first story has a low brick wall in the first bay, an entrance/exit in the second, and a solid brick wall in the third. The second story has low brick walls in the first two bays and a solid brick wall in the third. The third and fourth stories have low brick walls running the full three bays. All the walls have the concrete lintels, ribbed posts, and tube handrails as the Liberty Street facade. The wall and balconies curve where they turn the corner to Liberty Street. The third bay of the first two stories is also a curved brick wall that is embellished with a giant rectangular "plaque" composed of cast concrete tiles and set in a concrete frame.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4375

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This 1930s parking structure is a significant building type in the Baltimore commercial streetscape. The need for parking structures is a twentieth-century phenomenon that accompanied that rise of the automobile. The six-story height of this structure indicates the increasing density of traffic and the need for parking in the downtown district, a need for both office workers and shoppers. The garage also indicates the prevalence of commuter traffic in the downtown area in the post-War period and, as such, makes a contrast with the residential nature of the downtown in the nineteenth-century. The location of the parking structure also indicates the primacy of the Charles Street area: the structure is needed to serve Charles Street enterprises but is not an appropriate or affordable building type to actually locate on Charles Street. Thus, by implication, Saratoga and Liberty streets are a lesser street in the economic hierarchy.

The style of the garage is an excellent example of a 1930s streamlined Art Deco structure. The fluid lines of the cantilevered balconies sweep around the facade and corners of the structure, emphasizing the horizontal lines of the building and picking up on the machine and movement aesthetic that was a key part of the streamlined period of the Art Deco style. The streamlined design was a particularly appropriate image for a building that housed the most important transportation machine of the era--the automobile.

The interior of the garage exposes its internal structure. The reinforced concrete posts and beams form a functional aesthetic which is deemed appropriate for the structure and is typically never covered up.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4375

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historian

organization CHAP, Room 1037

date December 19, 1991

street & number 417 E. Fayette Street

telephone 301-396-4866

city or town Baltimore

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Modern Period, 1930-present

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

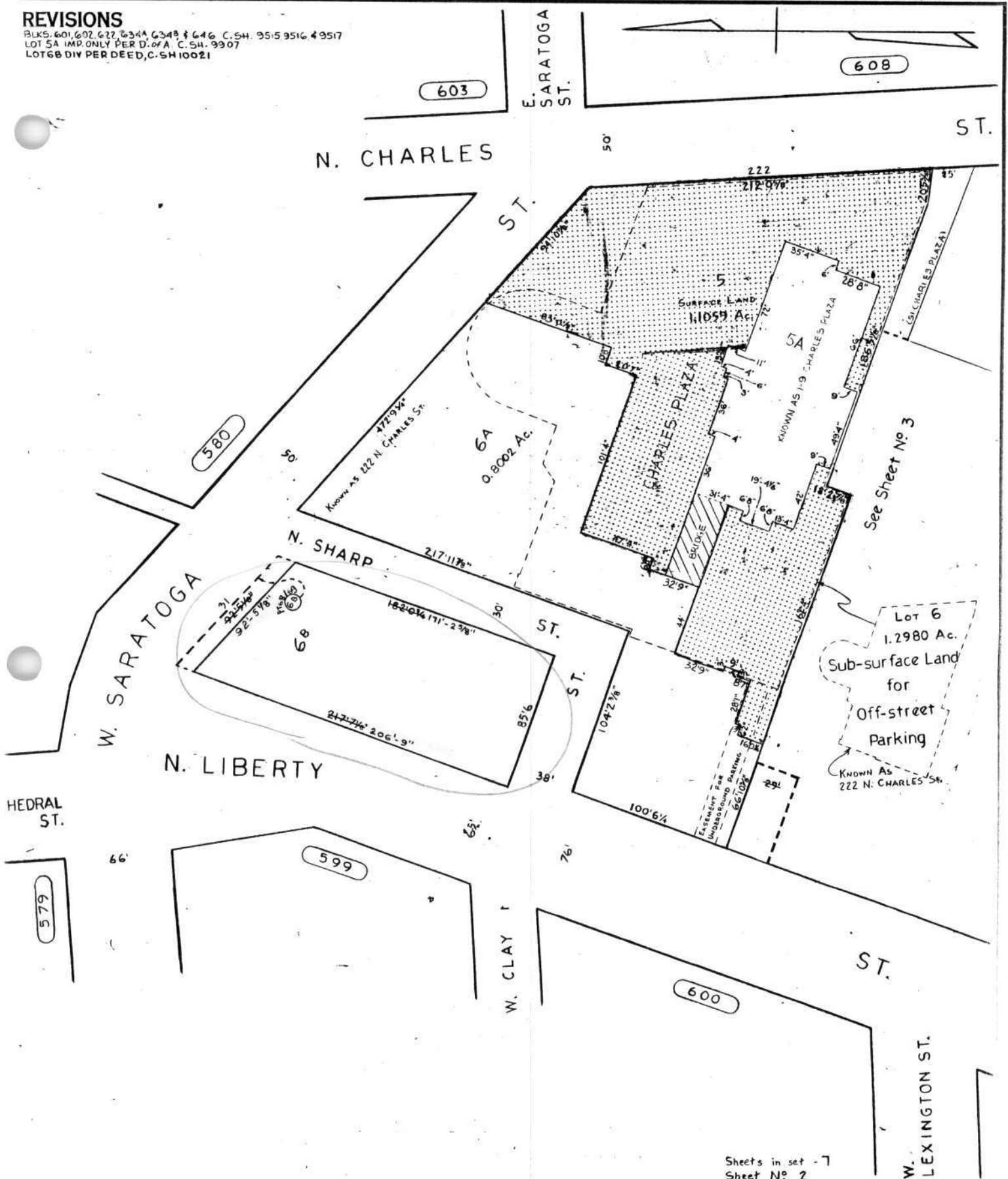
Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Transportation

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

BLKS. 601, 602, 622, 634A, 634B & 646 C.S.H. 95:5 9516 & 9517
 LOT 5A IMP. ONLY PER D.O.A. C.S.H. 9907
 LOT 6B DIV PER DEED, C.S.H. 10021



Sheets in set - 7
 Sheet N° 2

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 10
 BLOCK 601

SCALE 1" = 50' DATE DEC 1965

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

OLD CONDITIONS SHEET 89

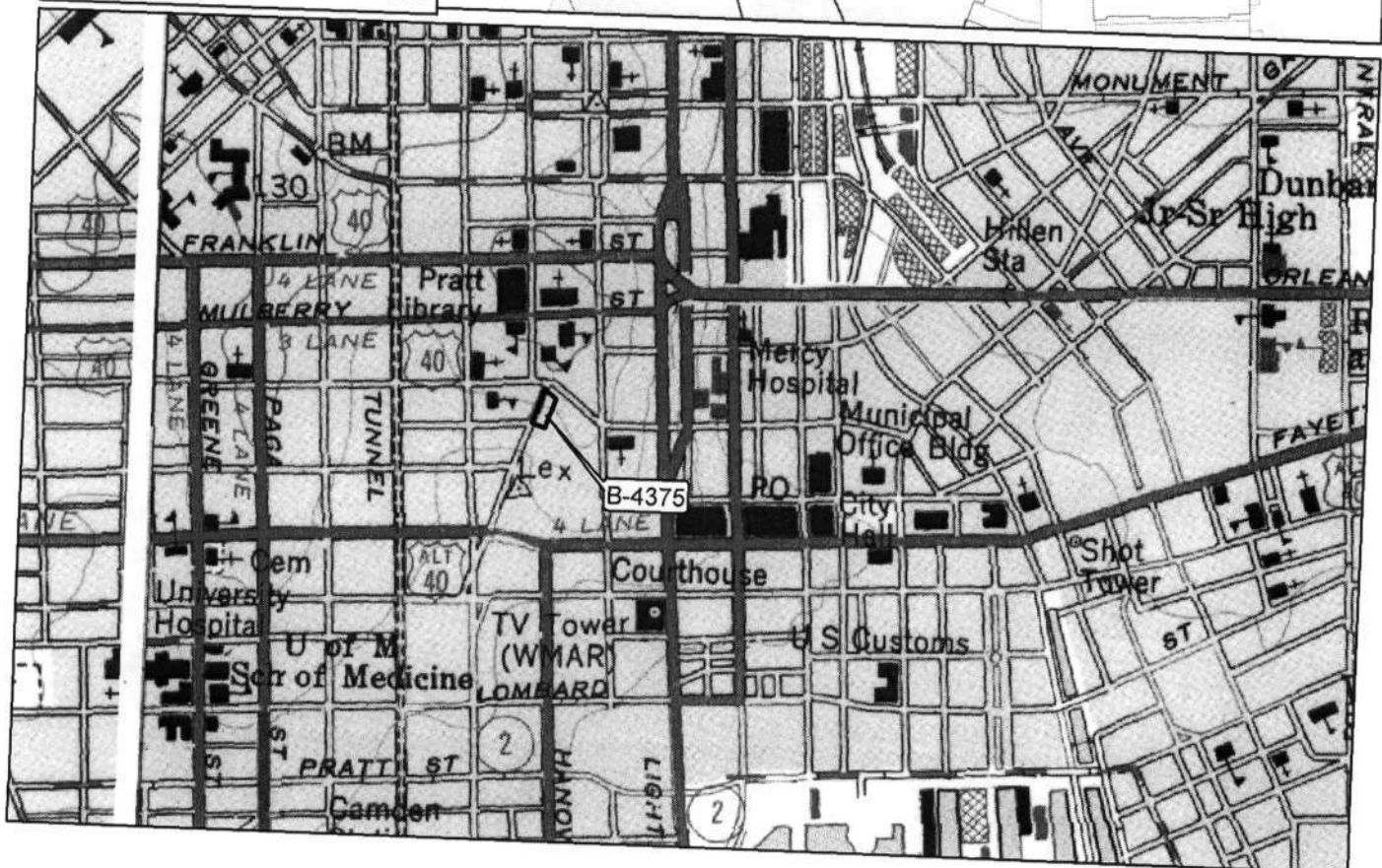
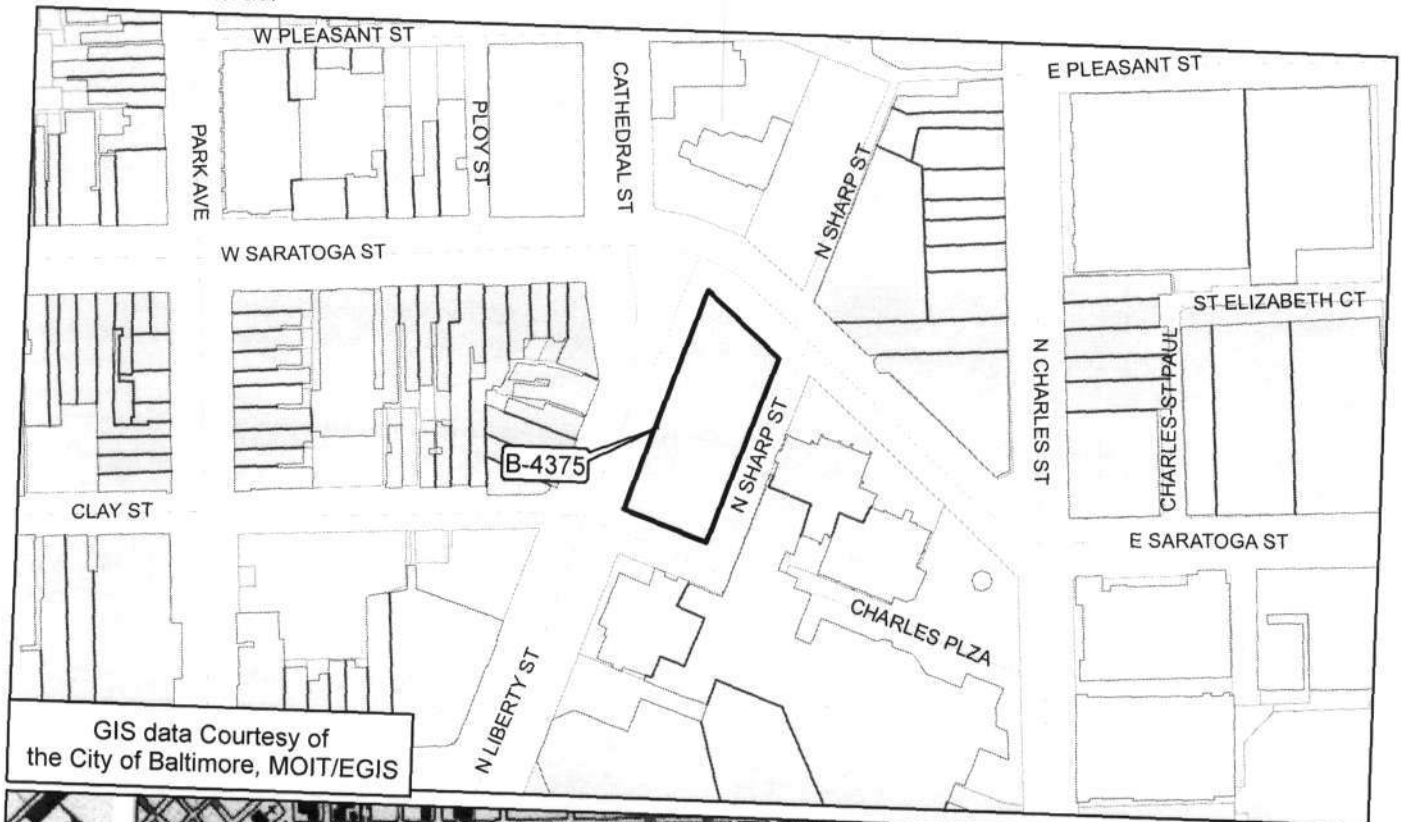
ACED BY A. CAROLAN

ITERED BY AC.

HECKED BY

B-4375
Parking Garage
31 W. Saratoga Street (227 N. Liberty Street)
Block 0601, Lot 006B
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished





B-4375

31 W. Saratoga / 227 N Liberty - Parking

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

West elevation

1/2



B-4375

31 W. Saratoga / 227 N. Liberty - Parking
Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPD

NW Elevation

2/2